

Today's News - Wednesday, August 11, 2010

- A very NYC news day: A behind-the-scenes look at how the 9/11 Museum at Ground Zero is shaping up. "Despite the unfinished form, a profound sense of what it will be emerges."
- Big plans for a Bronx plaza to make it a greener, less congested, and pedestrian-friendly space.
- A "teapot-size storm has been brewing" over Columbia University's modest plans by "two celebrity architects."
- In Berlin, "more is at stake than the age-old gentrification dilemma" with the threatened closure of a notable artists' collective (though to some it's just "a dirty version of Disney World").
- McGuirk on Moscow's early 20th-century avant-garde architecture: it's "a catalogue of degradation...the more hallowed the building in the architectural history books, the greater its decrepitude" (bless oligarchs' wives for trying to save some!).
- Wal-Mart finally wiggles its way into a Chicago neighborhood with a 180-acre development by promising "to be sustainable and sensitive to surrounding architecture (even CNU approves).
- L.A.'s Century Plaza hotel won't bite the dust after all, but the proposed high-rise development next to it "would transform the tenor of Century City's streets and dramatically alter the skyline.
- Long lays on the superlatives re: Chatham Historic Dockyard's re-born Smithery: "If working on historic buildings is a form of surgery," this was "more like necromancy. This building has not so much been refurbished, as brought back from the dead."
- An impressive design team chosen to breathe new life into the historic heart of Stoke, U.K.
- We thought we'd heard it all - until: "Salvador Dalí's home town to be recreated in China" (where else?!!?) - but wait - there's more: "promoters have decided they can improve a bit on the original" (surely Dalí would approve).
- CABE cautions Kapoor to go back to the drawing board for his ArcelorMittal Orbit tower: it "has a long way to go before it can get the thumbs up."
- 10 Things That Are Getting Better in 2010.
- An eyeful of the James Dyson Award national winners (some very cool stuff!).

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First Look: The 9/11 Museum at Ground Zero: The museum seems destined to become one of the most remarkable memorial structures in America...Despite the unfinished form, a profound sense of what it will be emerges, because this isn't your typical sort of building. By Cliff Kuang -- Davis Brody Bond Aedas [images, video]- Fast Company

NYC unveils new plans for Fordham Plaza: Key Bronx space to get major upgrade that includes less traffic, more space, kiosks and other amenities for pedestrians; green features lauded...a key objective was to create a greener and less congested space. Others suggested that was no easy task. -- Claire Weisz/WXY Architecture + Urban Design; Janette Sadik-Khan [images]- Crain's New York

Building Plans at Columbia University's Athletic Complex Stir Unease Among Neighbors: ...a teapot-size storm has been brewing over the university's more modest plans involving two celebrity architects in Inwood. -- Steven Holl; James Corner Field Operations [link to images]- New York Times

Dressing Artists' Hub in Something Button-Down: For Berlin, more is at stake than the age-old gentrification dilemma. The threatened closure of Tacheles...has sharpened the debate over Berlin's identity. No longer divided by the wall, it is now split between its unique past as a volatile blend of dark history and bright creativity and its status as the capital of a stable, reunified country.- New York Times

Moscow's architectural heritage is crumbling under capitalism: The city's avant-garde masterpieces are falling into ruin. It seems only the oligarchs' wives can save them...The more hallowed the building in the architectural history books, the greater its decrepitude. By Justin McGuirk -- Moisei Ginzburg/Ignaty Milnis (1928); Konstantin Melnikov (1929); Strelka Institute of Architecture, Media and Design; Rem Koolhaas [links to images]- Guardian (UK)

A Bargain for Pullman? Walmart clears Council for Chicago Far South Side project, paving way for 180-acre development...will seek to be sustainable and sensitive to surrounding architecture...preservationists and planners - the Congress for New Urbanism, even - have expressed approval for the project. -- PappageorgeHaymes Partners [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

New plan for Century Plaza hotel adds two 46-story towers: After backing down from a contentious proposal to demolish the hotel, the owner has unveiled plans to construct a \$1.5-billion high-rise development next to the Space Age landmark that would transform the tenor of Century City's streets and dramatically alter the skyline. By Martha Groves -- Minoru Yamasaki (1966); Henry N. Cobb/Pei Cobb Freed [image]- Los Angeles Times

Shipshape at Chatham Historic Dockyard: If working on historic buildings is a form of surgery, the £13million rehabilitation of the 17th century Smithery...is more like necromancy. This building has not so much been refurbished, as brought back from the dead. By Kieran Long -- van Heyningen and Haward Architects [images]- Evening Standard (UK)

Designers behind Temple Quay win go-ahead for Stoke town revamp: ...design team chosen to breathe new life into the historic heart... -- URBED; Jan Gehl Architects; DTZ; Arup- This is Staffordshire (UK)

Salvador Dalí's home town to be recreated in China: Developer to build imitation version of Cadaqués in Xiamen Bay, to the astonishment of residents of the Costa Brava port...promoters have decided they can improve a bit on the original, however, and will be adding an artificial island...Dalí would undoubtedly have approved of the endeavour.- Guardian (UK)

Government watchdog criticises plans for Kapoor's Olympic tower overlooking Hackney: ...CABE has found that Anish Kapoor's £19.1million ArcelorMittal Orbit has a long way to go before it can get the thumbs up from planning chiefs. [link to report]- Hackney Gazette (UK)

10 Things That Are Getting Better in 2010: ...along with the bad, there is some good coming out of the current recession.- Mountain States Construction (Denver)

James Dyson Award National Winners announced: ...a look at some of those now being scrutinized by the judges...This year's challenge was simply to design something that solves a problem. [images, links]- Gizmag (Australia)

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